Minister of Steel and its attached office:

There is no scope for reduction in the staff strength of Ministry of Steel (Sectt. Proper) for the time being as 10% reduction of posts was already implemented in 1992 by surrender of 32 posts. A Committee appointed to review the working of the DCI&S, an attached office of Ministry of Steel, has identified 163 posts in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' & 'D' taken together, as surplus. Out of these 15 posts have already been abolished.

Public Sector Undertakings:

Downsizing is being undertaken by the following PSUs by implementing Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). Number of employees separated/likely to be separated under VRS in these companies is as under:—

1. SAIL proposes to reduce its manpower by 36,220 (Executives : 6590, Non Executives 29630) by 31.3.2003.
2. HSCL reduced it's manpower by 6134 during 2000-2001.
3. BRL reduced it's manpower by 481 during 2000-2001.
4. MECON reduced it's manpower by 158 during 2000-2001.
5. KIOCL reduced it's manpower by 95 during the period Nov. 1999—June, 2000.
6. SIIL, reduced its manpower by 266 during the period 1995-96 to 2000-2001.

Pig iron plants in Orissa and Jharkhand

4064. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pig iron plants in Orissa and Jharkhand States;

(b) whether there is a vast scope to set up new pig iron plants in these States;

(c) if so, the steps taken thereon; and

(d) the proposals mooted for the purpose of Ninth and Tenth Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) There is one pig iron plant each in the States of Orissa and Jharkhand, which has been commissioned. In additional to this, one integrated steel plan of Steel Authority of India Ltd. in Jharkhand State also produces pig iron.

In terms of Industrial Policy in vogue no prior permission of the Govt. is required to set up pig iron plants in the country barring certain locational restrictions. Entrepreneurs are, therefore, free to select the location on their commercial judgement.

Estimated credit requirement of steel sector

4065. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have estimated the total credit requirement of steel sector;

(b) to what extent the financial institutions are catering to the total requirement; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to set up institutional finance for steel sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) According to the New Industrial Policy announced in July 1991, iron and steel industry has been de-reserved and de-licensed barring certain locational restrictions. It is up to entrepreneurs to set up such limits based on their commercial judgement. Ministry of Steel has not estimated the total credit requirement of steel sector.

(b) As per the information made available by IDBI, FIs had sanctioned financial assistance in the post liberalization era to 14 large projects in steel (pig iron, steel and steel processing) involving a total investment of Rs. 35,550 crores.

(c) There is no proposal in the Ministry to set up institution for financing steel sector.